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# *The Lincoln Museum*

*and the*

HOUSE WHERE  
LINCOLN DIED





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fred A. Seaton, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*

***HISTORICAL HANDBOOK NUMBER THREE***

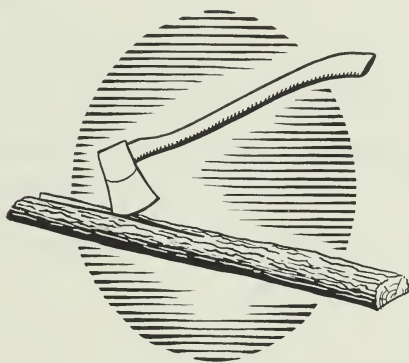
This publication is one of a series of handbooks describing the historical and archeological areas in the National Park System. It is printed by the Government Printing Office and may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C. Price 25¢.

*The*  
LINCOLN MUSEUM  
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HOUSE WHERE LINCOLN DIED

WASHINGTON, D. C.

*by Stanley W. McClure*



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORICAL HANDBOOK SERIES NO. 3

WASHINGTON, D.C., 1949

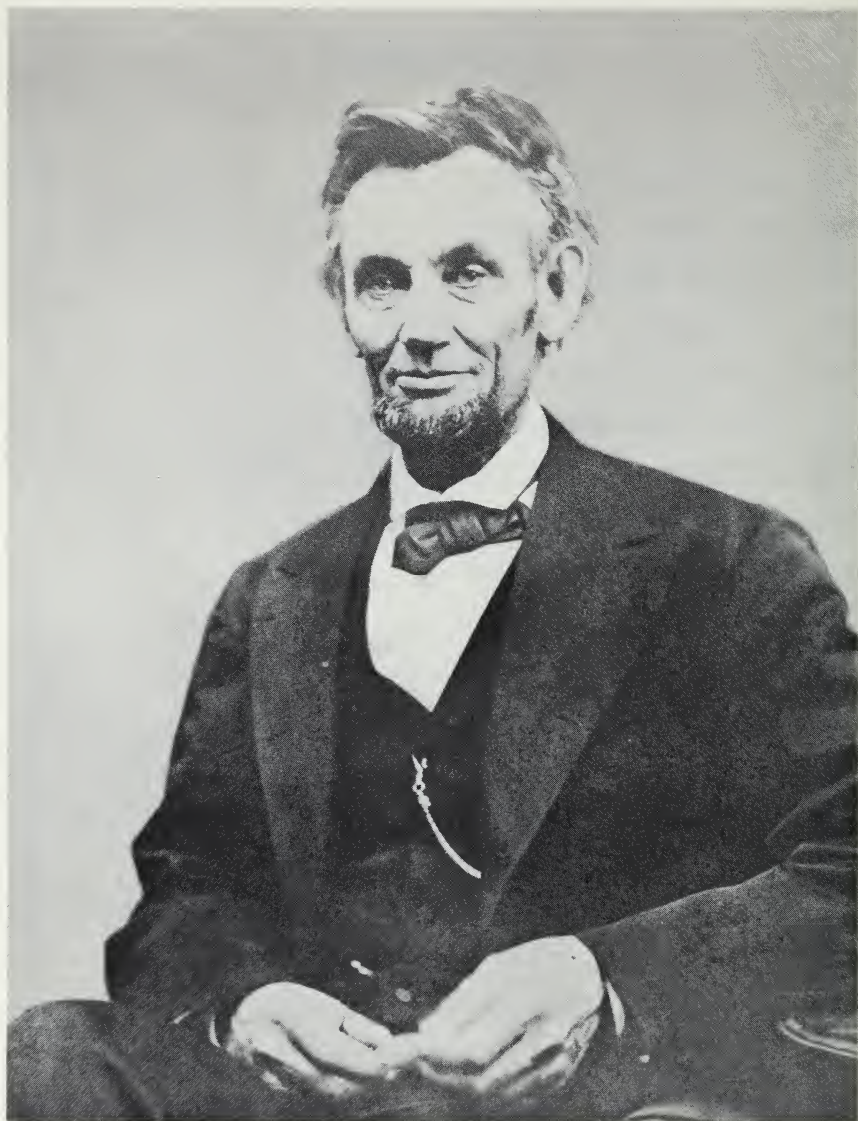
(Revised 1960)



The National Park System, of which the Lincoln Museum and the House Where Lincoln Died are units, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.

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*One of several photographs taken by Alexander Gardner, Washington, D. C., 4 days before Lincoln was assassinated.*



## *S*cene of the assassination and death of Abraham Lincoln

In downtown Washington, almost midway between the Capitol and the White House, two historic structures, Ford's Theatre and the House Where Lincoln Died, have been preserved as memorials to Abraham Lincoln. These buildings are associated with one of the most tragic and dramatic episodes in American history. In Ford's Theatre, on the evening of April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a member of a prominent theatrical family and brother of the great actor Edwin Booth. Early the next morning the President died in the Petersen House, directly across the street from the theatre.

When President Lincoln entered the theatre box that fateful night, prospects for the Nation's future appeared bright. The War Between the States was virtually at an end. In the Confederate States the people were returning to the weary task of reconstruction, and many Northerners were willing to forget the past in the solemn rejoicing of victory. Both in the North and in the South the personality of Lincoln was seen as the guiding hand in binding up the Nation's wounds. The trials and agonies of the "tragic era" which followed the conflict might have been spared the South had the Nation heeded the sublime spirit embodied in the words of the Second Inaugural Address which spoke of a peace "with malice toward none, with charity for all." With the smoke of the assassin's pistol, the mounting hopes of an early reconciliation vanished. The mild peace advocated by President Lincoln gave way to the outcry of the Northern radicals for vengeance.

In his death, as in his life, Abraham Lincoln has entered deeply into the folklore and history of our country. He has become an eternal symbol, to us and to the world, of the heights to which a common man can aspire under a democratic way of life. The Lincoln Museum portrays his homely greatness and the tragedy of his death. At no place can the work of Lincoln as a national leader and as President be more appropriately commemorated than at the site where this work was brought to an abrupt conclusion. The Petersen House, restored as of that period, carries one to the days of the Civil War and to one of that war's saddest nights.



*Ford's Theatre after the assassination. Soldiers guard the closed building and mourning bands hang from the windows. The fourth door from the left was the main entrance, and the fifth led to the gallery. The saloon of Peter Taltavull was located on the first floor of the building on the right. (Reproduced from photograph by Alexander Gardner, Washington, D. C.)*

## *The First Ford's Theatre*

In 1833–34 the First Baptist Church of Washington erected a house of worship upon the spot where the Lincoln Museum now stands. Services were held in the building until 1859, when the congregation united with another church, retaining the name of the First Baptist Church but abandoning the Tenth Street building.

John T. Ford, an enterprising theatrical manager of Baltimore and Philadelphia, purchased the First Baptist Church in 1861 and converted it into a theatre. After extensive alterations it was inaugurated on November 19, 1861. Early in 1862, the building was closed to make renovations necessary for the presentation of theatrical instead of musical plays. Reopened under the name of "Fords' Athenaeum," the playhouse proved to be a profitable business venture for Ford. On the evening of December 30, 1862, however, the theatre caught fire and, although several fire companies responded, the building was soon a smouldering ruin.

## *The New Ford's Theatre*

Mr. Ford, not discouraged by this misfortune, made plans for the construction of a larger and more modern structure. The cornerstone of the new edifice was laid on the morning of February 28, 1863, by James J. Gifford, the architect and builder. A substantial brick structure of imposing architectural proportions, it was one of the finest theatres in the country. The auditorium seated nearly 1,700, including 421 in the dress circle (first balcony). The orchestra, parquet, and dress circle, sloping downward toward the stage, were equipped with cane-bottomed chairs. There were eight private boxes, two upper and two lower, located on either side of the stage.

The new Ford's Theatre was completed and opened to the public on the night of August 27, 1863, when the dramatic pageant "The Naiad Queen" was presented to a capacity audience. From that date until it was closed by the Government in April 1865, Ford's Theatre was one of the most successful amusement places in Washington. Mr. Ford endeavored to provide his patrons with the best entertainment possible, and a galaxy of famous actors and actresses appeared there in some of the outstanding productions of the period.

## *John Wilkes Booth*

Among the many actors who had performed in the presence of Lincoln was the prominent young actor, John Wilkes Booth. Grandson of a man who helped runaway slaves escape, son of an eccentric idealist of great

acting ability, and brother of Edwin Booth, the matinee idol of his time, he had the talent and eccentricities of his family, but did not share their Union sympathies. As a youth, his intimate associates had been Southerners, and he had developed a passionate love for the South and its institutions. Yet, when war came, he continued to act in the North rather than fight for the South. The 26-year-old thespian was handsome, popular with the ladies, and his earnings totaled approximately \$20,000 a year. On November 9, 1863, his fame had drawn Abraham Lincoln as a spectator to his performance in "The Marble Heart" at Ford's Theatre. But success in the theatre did not satisfy his lust for enduring fame. His misguided zeal led him on to the deed which gained for him not fame, but deepest infamy.

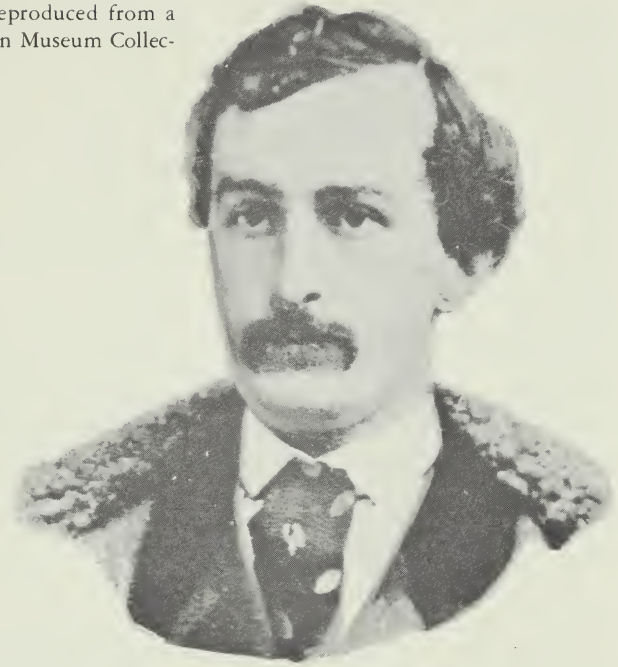
### *The Conspiracy*

In his original plan, Booth did not intend to kill the President. He meant to kidnap him and hold him as a hostage. As ransom for the President, he would demand the release of Southern prisoners of war to replenish the thinning Confederate ranks. To carry out his scheme, Booth gathered about him a small group of conspirators. Two of them, Samuel Arnold and Michael O'Laughlin, had been his schoolmates and had fought in the Confederate Army. Lewis Paine, desperado and Confederate deserter, was a great admirer of Booth. A German immigrant, George Atzerodt, was enlisted in the plot to supply a boat to take the kidnappers across the Potomac River. David Herold, an insignificant youth, had become a willing tool of Booth. Another, John Surratt, was a Confederate blockade runner. Booth and several of the conspirators frequently met at the boarding house of John Surratt's mother, Mrs. Mary E. Surratt, located at 541 H Street NW., in Washington. While examining a possible escape route in lower Maryland, an area active with Confederate sympathizers, Booth became acquainted with Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, of Bryantown, who was later to pay dearly for this association. The conspirators gradually lost interest in the kidnapping plan, and it was abandoned. As a last resort, the desperate actor decided to assassinate the President.

### *Lincoln's Last Day*

April 14, 1865, was a day of celebration and thanksgiving in the Northern States. After four long years of war General Lee had surrendered, and the capitulation of Johnston's forces was expected soon. President Lincoln had chosen this day as a fitting occasion for again raising the shell-torn flag above Fort Sumter, on the fourth anniversary of its fall into Southern hands.

*John Wilkes Booth.* (Reproduced from a photograph in the Lincoln Museum Collection.)



As a temporary escape from his arduous duties, Lincoln had arranged to attend the play at Ford's Theatre that evening. In the morning he breakfasted with his family; and Robert Lincoln, a captain on Grant's staff who had arrived the day before from City Point, Va., entertained with accounts of life at the front. President Lincoln met with his Cabinet at 11 a. m., the session lasting until 1:30 p. m. The main topic of discussion was the restoration of the Southern States into the Union. During the afternoon the President took a long carriage ride with Mrs. Lincoln and Tad. The drive carried Lincoln to the Navy Yard where he visited the monitor *Montauk*. Returning to the White House, he spent a pleasant hour with Governor Oglesby and General Haynie, two of his old Illinois friends. After dinner Lincoln visited the War Department and then prepared to go to the theatre. Several people were interviewed from 7:30 to 8 p. m., including Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House, who called by appointment. A congressman from Massachusetts, George Ashmun, called on the President regarding the claim of a client. It was after 8 o'clock and time to go to the theatre. So that Ashmun would be admitted early the next morning, Lincoln wrote on a card "Allow Mr. Ashmun & friend to come in at 9— A.M.—tomorrow. A. Lincoln. April 14, 1865." This was the last writing from the hand of Abraham Lincoln.

## *The Play—"Our American Cousin"*

Tom Taylor's celebrated comedy, "Our American Cousin," was presented at Ford's Theatre on the evening of April 14, 1865. The distinguished actress, Laura Keane, was in the role of Florence Trenchard, a character she had enacted more than 1,000 times. It was announced in the afternoon newspapers that General Grant would accompany President and Mrs. Lincoln to the theatre. Although Lincoln was a familiar figure at Ford's Theatre, Grant was almost a total stranger, and Washingtonians were anxious for a glimpse of him. In the hope of seeing General Grant, many persons purchased tickets for the play, and a crowded house was anticipated.

A messenger from the Executive Mansion had come to the box office at Ford's Theatre at 10:30 a. m. on the morning of April 14th and reserved the state box for the Presidential party. Earlier in the morning, General and Mrs. Grant had accepted an invitation from the President to accompany him and Mrs. Lincoln to the theatre.

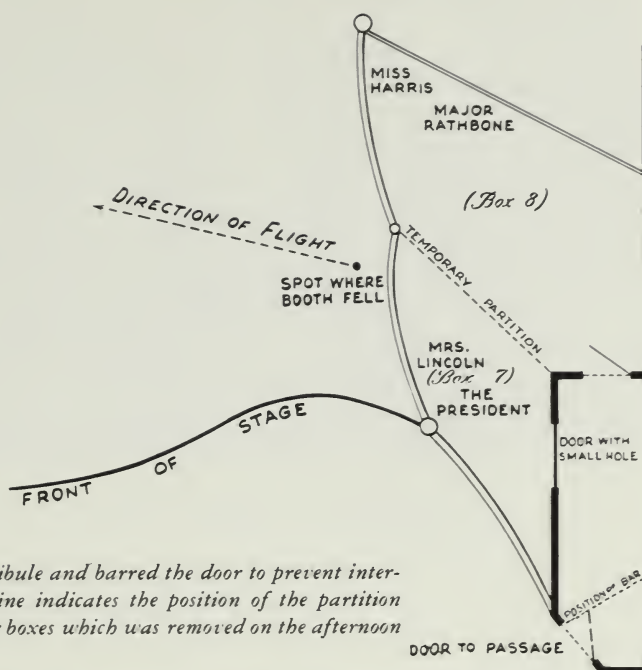
## *Preparations for the Presidential Party*

In preparation for the occasion the acting manager, Harry Clay Ford, supervised the decorations of the President's box, situated on the south side of the stage. The partition between the two upper boxes was removed by Edman Spangler, the stagehand, converting it into a single box for the convenience of the Presidential party. Two American flags, each on a staff, were placed at either side of the box and two others were draped on the balustrades. The blue regimental flag of the U. S. Treasury Guards was suspended at the center pillar on a staff. An engraving of George Washington was hung in front of the pillar as an added touch to the decorative scheme.

During the afternoon General Grant informed the President that he and Mrs. Grant would be unable to go to the theatre. Late in the day they left by train for Philadelphia on the way to visit their children at Burlington, N. J. Lincoln then asked several other persons to join the theatre party, but all, including Robert Lincoln, declined. At the last moment Miss Clara Harris, daughter of Senator Ira T. Harris of New York, and her fiance, Maj. Henry R. Rathbone, accepted the invitation.

It was close to 8:15 p. m. when the Lincoln carriage left the White House grounds and drove toward the residence of Senator Harris, at Fifteenth and H Streets. It was about 8:30 p. m. when the carriage drew up in front of Ford's Theatre. The performance had begun at 7:45 p. m. The house was filled, except for the boxes. Only the state box was reserved that evening.

There were five doorways opening into Ford's Theatre. The stairway leading to the family circle (gallery) was reached by the doorway on the



*Booth entered the vestibule and barred the door to prevent interference. The dotted line indicates the position of the partition between the two upper boxes which was removed on the afternoon of April 14.*

extreme south. The doorway next on the north was the main entrance. The box office, with windows on the north and south, was located between these two doors. The other three doorways on the north were used as exits.

Entering the lobby of the theatre by the main entrance, the Presidential party ascended the stairway at the north end to the dress circle. Charles Forbes, the footman, and John Parker, a special guard waiting at the theatre, were in the party. Passing in back of the dress circle seats, they proceeded down the aisle to the vestibule leading to the double box.

The door to Box 7, on the left side of the vestibule, was closed. The party entered through the open door to Box 8, at the far end of the passage. In the afternoon, a sofa, a high-backed chair, and a black walnut rocking chair upholstered in red damask were placed in the box. The rockers of the rocking chair fitted into the angle of Box 7, behind the closed door, and nearest to the audience. The President took this chair with Mrs. Lincoln on his right, toward the center pillar of the double box. Miss Harris was seated in the right-hand corner of Box 8 and Major Rathbone at her left on the sofa.

When the President entered the theatre, William Withers, Jr., the leader of the orchestra, signaled for "Hail to the Chief." The audience then caught sight of the President and, rising as a body, cheered again and again. In acknowledgment, the President came to the front of the box and smilingly bowed to the audience. After the Presidential party was seated, the play was resumed.

## *Events Preceding the Assassination*

At noon, Booth walked to Ford's Theatre, where it was his custom to have his mail delivered. Several letters were handed him, and he seated himself on the doorsill to read them. After half an hour, Booth walked on. During this time he was told by Harry C. Ford that the President and General Grant would be at the theatre that evening.

Booth then went to the livery stable of James W. Pumphrey, on C Street in the rear of the National Hotel, and engaged a small bay mare which he called for at about 4 o'clock. Sometime later he put the horse in his stable in the rear of Ford's Theatre. Edman Spangler, the stage-hand, and Joseph "Peanuts" Burroughs, who distributed bills and was stage doorkeeper at Ford's Theatre, were in charge of the stable.

Shortly after 9 o'clock, Booth came to the back door of the theatre and called for Spangler to hold his horse. Spangler was one of the scene-shifters and his almost continuous presence was required at his post. As soon as Booth passed inside, Spangler called for "Peanuts" Burroughs to watch the horse.

Booth crossed underneath the stage to an exit leading to Tenth Street and entered the saloon of Peter Taltavull, adjoining the theatre on the south. Instead of his customary brandy, Booth ordered whisky and a glass of water.

Booth walked out and entered the theatre lobby. He was in and out of the lobby several times and once asked the time of the doorkeeper, John Buckingham. A short time later, at 10:10 p. m., he reentered the lobby, ascended the stairs and passed around the dress circle to the vestibule door leading to the President's box.

Before reaching the door, Booth paused, took off his hat, leaned against the wall, and made a leisurely survey of the audience and stage. The play was now nearing the close of the second scene of Act 3. According to witnesses, Booth took a card from his pocket and handed it to Charles Forbes, who occupied Seat 300, the one nearest the vestibule door. He then stepped down one step, put his hand on the door of the corridor, and placed his knee against it. It opened and Booth entered, closing it behind him.

As it had no lock, Booth placed a pine bar against the door and anchored the other end in a mortise cut into the outside brick wall of the building. This precaution was taken to prevent anyone in the dress circle from following. A small hole which had been bored in the door of Box 7, directly in back of Lincoln, enabled the assassin to view the position of the President and the action on the stage. The actor had free access to the theatre at all times. It is probable that the hole in the door and the mortise in the wall were cut by Booth sometime after the rehearsal on April 14.

The actor timed his entrance into the box when only one person was on the stage. The lone figure of Harry Hawk, playing the part of Asa



*This contemporary sketch represents Booth assassinating President Lincoln. The figures are: Booth, President and Mrs. Lincoln, Miss Clara Harris and Maj. Henry R. Rathbone. (Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, April 29, 1865.)*

Trenchard, was standing at the center of the stage in front of the curtained doorway at the tragic moment. Miss Clara Harris and Major Rathbone were intent upon the play and Mrs. Lincoln laughed at the words being spoken by Harry Hawk: "Don't know the manners of good society, eh? Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, old gal—you sockdologizing old mantrap." These words were probably the last heard by Abraham Lincoln.

### *Assassination of Lincoln*

President Lincoln was leaning slightly forward with his hand on the balustrade rail and had turned his head to look into the audience. Pulling around the flag that decorated the box, he was looking between the pillar and the flag. It was at this moment, approximately 10:15 p. m., that Booth silently entered the door to Box 8 and fired the fatal shot. A single shot muzzle loading Deringer, about 6 inches in length, was fired by the assassin at close range. The bullet, less than one-half inch in diameter, entered slightly above and between his left ear and the median line of the back of his head, and lodged close behind the right eye. The President slumped forward in his chair, and then backward, never to regain consciousness.

Instantly, Major Rathbone sprang upon the assassin. Booth dropped the Deringer, broke from Rathbone's grasp, and lunged at him with a large knife. Rathbone parried the blow, but received a deep wound in



*Landing on the stage, Booth instantly regained his feet and is asserted to have shouted: "Sic Semper Tyrannis" before dashing from the stage. The sketch is erroneous in that the lower boxes were unoccupied. (Harper's Weekly, April 27, 1865.)*

his left arm above the elbow. Booth placed one hand on the balustrade, to the left of the center pillar, raised his other arm to strike at the advancing Rathbone, and vaulted over the railing. Rathbone again seized Booth but only caught his clothing. As he leaped, Booth's right boot struck the framed engraving of Washington, turning it completely over. The spur on his right heel caught in the fringe of the Treasury Guards' flag and brought it down, tearing a strip with it. These obstacles caused the assassin to lose his balance and he fell awkwardly on the stage, at least 11½ feet below, tearing a rent in the green baize carpet. He landed in a kneeling position, with his left leg resting on the stage. In the fall, the large bone of his left leg was fractured about 2 inches above the ankle.

The actor regained his feet with the agility of an athlete, and is asserted to have flourished his dagger and shouted "Sic Semper Tyrannis" (Thus always with tyrants), the motto of the Commonwealth of Virginia, before dashing across the stage. Harry Hawk, seeing Booth striding toward him with a knife, ran through the center doorway on the stage and up a flight of stairs to the flies.

Leaving the stage on the north side of the theater, Booth passed between Laura Keane and young William J. Ferguson, standing near the promptor's desk. In the narrow aisle leading from the stage to the rear door, Booth bumped into William Withers, Jr., the orchestra leader. He slashed twice at Withers, cutting his coat and knocking him to the floor before rushing out the door. Grasping the reins from "Peanuts"

Burroughs, the assassin felled him with the butt end of his knife, then mounted his horse and rode swiftly from the alley.

Maj. Joseph B. Stewart, a lawyer, who was 6 feet 6 inches tall and probably the tallest man in Washington, was sitting in the front seat of the orchestra, on the right-hand side. Startled by the shot, he looked up and saw Booth tumbling onto the stage. Rising instantly, Stewart climbed over the orchestra pit and footlights, and pursued Booth across the stage, shouting several times "Stop that man!" He stepped out the back door only to see Booth mount his horse and ride away.

The audience, not realizing what had happened, was stunned for a moment by the report of the pistol. Even when Booth was seen leaping from the box to the stage, many thought it all a part of the play. The screams of Mrs. Lincoln first disclosed that the President was shot. Ford's Theatre then became a scene of terror and pandemonium. The people left their seats and wandered about in wild confusion. When the audience was quieted, the theatre was vacated for the last time.

Several doctors attended the stricken President. Asst. Surg. (U.S.A.) Charles A. Leale, seated in the nearby dress circle, was the first to reach the box, and Asst. Surg. Charles S. Taft was lifted from the stage into the box. Dr. A. F. A. King, of Washington, was also present. Examining the wound, they ordered the body of Lincoln to be removed

*Booth escaped from the theatre by the rear door. He grasped the reins from "Peanuts" Burroughs, jumped on the mare's back, and rode furiously out of the alley to F Street. Major Stewart is in pursuit. (Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, May 13, 1865.)*





*Scene at the death bed of President Lincoln. The figures, from left to right: Secretary Welles, Secretary Stanton, physician, Secretary Dennison, Charles Sumner, Surgeon-General Barnes, Robert Lincoln, General Halleck, John Hay, General Meigs and physicians on chairs. (Harper's Weekly, May 6, 1865.)*

to the nearest bed, as the ride over the rough cobblestone pavement to the Executive Mansion would have brought on a fatal hemorrhage. The unconscious form was carried down the dress circle stairway. On reaching the street, a man was seen on the porch of a house opposite, in front of a lighted hallway. The surgeons ordered Lincoln to be brought into this house. He was carried up the curving steps and down a hall to a small, first-floor bedroom. The single bed was pulled out from the corner of the room and the dying President laid diagonally across it, his extreme height not permitting any other position.

### *Death of Lincoln*

Throughout the night Cabinet members, physicians, and distinguished men watched at Lincoln's bedside. All of the Cabinet officers were there, except Seward. At least six doctors were also in the room. Surg. Gen. Joseph K. Barnes and Dr. Robert K. Stone, the family physician, probed the wound and found it to be mortal.

Assisted by Major Rathbone, Miss Harris, and Laura Keene, Mrs. Lincoln followed her husband across to the Petersen House. Major Rathbone fainted from loss of blood and was taken home. Mrs. Lincoln occupied the front parlor and here was secluded from the curious. Going to Lincoln's bedside from time to time, her anguish and grief increased with each view of her dying husband. Sometime before his death, his

labored breathing and change of countenance so affected her that she fell in a faint so prolonged that a physician ordered that she not be permitted again to enter the room.

In the back parlor, members of the Cabinet conferred, and here Secretary of War Stanton began his investigation of the assassination and interviewed witnesses of the tragedy. Vice President Andrew Johnson visited the President's bedside during the night but departed before the end.

About 7 o'clock in the morning, April 15, 1865, Dr. Stone announced that death was near, and at 7:22 a. m. the President died. The Reverend Phineas D. Gurley, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, offered a prayer and Secretary of War Stanton approached the bed and is said to have uttered the enduring words "Now he belongs to the ages."

### *Funeral of Lincoln*

On April 18, 1865, thousands of people viewed the remains of President Lincoln in the East Room of the Executive Mansion. Funeral services were held in this room on April 19, and then his coffin headed a procession which moved down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. Placed in the rotunda of the Capitol, his bier was visited by huge throngs on April 20.

The train bearing Lincoln's coffin left for Springfield, Ill., on April 21, following in reverse almost the same route taken by Lincoln in reaching Washington early in 1861. His body was placed in state in several of the

*The funeral procession of Abraham Lincoln moving down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House to the Capitol, April 19, 1865. (Reproduced from photograph by Alexander Gardner, Washington, D. C.)*





*Map showing the route of Booth's flight from the rear of Ford's Theatre, Washington, D. C., to Garrett's farm near Port Royal, Va., where the assassin was shot and died, April 26, 1865.*

large cities en route. On May 4, his coffin was placed in the receiving vault of Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Ill., 15 days after the services at the Executive Mansion in Washington. The Lincoln Monument, located on the hill above the receiving vault, was dedicated on October 15, 1874. It contains the bodies of President and Mrs. Lincoln and three of their four sons, Edward, William, and Thomas (Tad). The eldest, Robert Todd, the only Lincoln son to reach maturity, is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

### *The Flight of Booth*

In his flight from the alley behind Ford's Theatre, Booth passed along F Street, around the Capitol to Pennsylvania Avenue, and crossed the Navy Yard Bridge. He was overtaken shortly afterward by his accomplice, David Herold. They stopped at Lloyd's Tavern, Surrattsville, Md., at midnight April 14, to obtain whisky and a carbine secreted there beforehand. At 4 a. m., April 15, they reached the home of Dr. Samuel

A. Mudd, near Bryantown, Md., who set Booth's broken left leg. The flight was resumed late in the afternoon of April 15, and at midnight the fugitives arrived at the residence of Samuel Cox. They were concealed in a nearby thicket and supplied with food by Thomas Jones, foster brother of Cox, until April 21, when they started the journey to the Potomac River. They were aided in crossing the river by Jones, and reached the Virginia shore on the morning of April 23.

After crossing the Potomac, Booth and Herold were directed to the home of Richard H. Garrett, near Port Royal, Va. They reached there at 4 p. m. on April 24. At 2 a. m., April 26, a cavalry detachment of 28 men under Col. E. J. Conger tracked Booth and Herold to Garrett's barn. Herold surrendered, but Booth refused. The barn was set afire, and Booth, advancing toward the open door, was shot through the neck. Sgt. Boston Corbett claimed to have fired the shot. The wounded Booth was dragged from the flaming structure to the front porch of Garrett's house, where he died at 5:30 a.m. His body was brought back to the Washington Navy Yard, identified, and buried beneath a cell in the Penitentiary at the Arsenal grounds on April 27, where it remained until October 1, 1867, when it was removed to the nearby Arsenal Warehouse. In February 1869, his body was released to his family.

### *The Conspirators and Their Trial and Execution*

At about 10 p. m. on April 14, 1865, at almost the same time that Booth assassinated President Lincoln, Lewis Paine entered the residence of Secretary of State William H. Seward, Madison Place, Lafayette Square, on the pretext of delivering medicine to Seward, who had been injured in a carriage accident. Paine fractured the skull of Frederick Seward, a son of the Secretary, with his revolver, slashed a male nurse, and stabbed Seward twice in the face. Only the fact that he was wearing a steel brace around his neck and broken jaw saved Seward's life.

The conspirators were quickly rounded up following Lincoln's assassination. Atzerodt, who had been assigned to kill Vice President Johnson, lacked the courage to carry out the plan, and was captured 6 days afterwards. Arnold and O'Laughlin were apprehended 3 days after the murder. On April 17, Mrs. Surratt was arrested at her boarding house, along with Paine who had walked in while the police were there. Dr. Mudd was arrested on April 21.

The military tribunal established to try the conspirators did not distinguish between the plan for abduction and the assassination. Paine, Herold, Atzerodt, and Mrs. Surratt were hanged. Dr. Mudd, Arnold, and O'Laughlin were sentenced to life imprisonment at Fort Jefferson on the Dry Tortugas, Florida. Dr. Mudd and Arnold were pardoned by President Johnson in 1869, and O'Laughlin died of yellow fever in 1867. Spangler, charged with aiding in Booth's escape, was sentenced to 6

years' imprisonment but was pardoned with the others. John Surratt, who had fled to Europe, was captured at Alexandria, Egypt, and tried in Washington by a civil court in 1867. He was freed when the jury disagreed.

### *The Government Purchases Ford's Theatre*

On the night of April 14, 1865, Secretary of War Stanton ordered guards to be posted at the theatre, and all future dramatic productions were canceled. In June, the building was restored to John T. Ford who advertised that the theatre would be reopened. This announcement aroused public indignation, and the War Department ordered the building closed. Mr. Ford threatened legal proceedings, whereupon the Government rented the building for \$1,500 a month until June 1, 1866, with the privilege of purchasing it for \$100,000. The necessary funds were provided by Congress in the Deficiency Appropriation Acts of July 7, 1865, and April 7, 1866.

Soon after renting the property, the Government began remodeling the theatre into an office and storage building. On August 17, 1865, a contract was awarded for altering the interior of the building. The ornate woodwork of the stage and balconies was removed and the building was divided into three floors. This work was completed on November 27, 1865. The building was occupied by the Record and Pension Bureau of the War Department in April 1866. The Army Medical Museum was located on the third floor from 1867 to 1887.

On the morning of June 9, 1893, a second tragedy occurred in the old theatre building. Excavation in the basement for the installation of an electric plant weakened the foundations of the structure and caused the three floors to collapse. Employees of the Record and Pension Bureau were at work when the crash occurred. Clerks, desks, and heavy file cases were catapulted into the basement. Twenty-two persons were killed and 68 injured in the catastrophe. The interior of the building was restored the following year.

On July 1, 1928, the building was transferred from the War Department to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital and utilized for storage purposes. That office was absorbed by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, by Executive order of June 10, 1933.

### *The Lincoln Museum Collection*

During the Presidential campaign of 1860, young Osborn H. Oldroyd, of Mount Vernon, Ohio, obtained a booklet containing an account of the life of Abraham Lincoln and his speeches. Reading it carefully he became impressed with the potential greatness of the President-elect,



*A view of the interior of the Lincoln Museum. The exhibit cases are arranged chronologically in describing the story of Lincoln's life.*

and he determined to acquire every available article relating to Lincoln. He served in the Union Army during the War Between the States and was wounded at Vicksburg. Discharged from the Army, Oldroyd returned to his hobby of collecting Lincoln articles with renewed interest.

Moving to Springfield, Ill., Oldroyd found the Lincoln home vacant. In 1883, he leased the house from Robert Lincoln and there displayed his Lincoln collection. In 1887, Robert Lincoln presented the Springfield home to the State of Illinois for a museum. Oldroyd continued to exhibit his collection there until 1893 when he moved to the Nation's Capital.

Reaching Washington, Oldroyd found the Petersen House unoccupied. Renting the building, he moved in his collection of Lincoln relics. It was formally opened to the public on October 17, 1893. An act of Congress, approved June 11, 1896, provided for the purchase of the house from Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schade for \$30,000. The purchase was consummated on October 7, 1896. The deed was recorded on November 10, 1896, and on that day the Government assumed charge of the premises. The acquisition of the Oldroyd collection was provided by the act of Congress, approved May 11, 1926. The purchase was made on August 30, 1926, and the Government officially took over the collection on September 1 of that year. Moved to the old Ford's Theatre building, this collection was opened to the public on February 12, 1932, and is the nucleus of the present exhibits in the Lincoln Museum.

The Oldroyd collection, acquired over a period of 66 years, contained more than 3,000 articles when purchased by the Government, including hundreds of objects that cannot be duplicated. In recent years, there have been many interesting accessions to the original collection.



*An artist's conception of the Lincoln birth cabin. (Reproduced from a sketch in the Lincoln Museum Collection.)*

There are approximately 2,800 books, most of which relate to the subject of Lincoln and the Civil War. The Lincoln books number about 600. The greater part of the collection, including photographs, engravings, lithographs, coins, badges, cartoons, documents, campaign songs, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, and other miscellaneous material, is preserved in the study collection. This collection has made the Lincoln Museum a primary source of information on the life and death of the President. The library and study collection are available to students for research and reference work.

### *Lincoln's Life as Depicted in the Museum Exhibits*

More than 800 photographs and objects with adequate labels are arranged chronologically throughout the Museum to describe the story of Lincoln's life. Beginning with the large cases on the left (north) after entering, the visitor, as he proceeds from alcove to alcove, may view in proper sequence the exhibits covering the major episodes in the life of the Great Emancipator. The large captions in red letters at the top of each panel identify the period of his life to which the exhibit pertains. The quotations in smaller letters beneath, taken largely from the writings of Lincoln, summarize and give emphasis to the theme as it is developed. These captions, together with the appropriate photographs and articles relating to the exhibit, enable the visitor to select the subject matter of each case in which he is interested.

Although most of the material in the Museum is pictorial, there are some original objects and documents as well as photostats of originals among the exhibits. Several pieces of furniture associated with the early

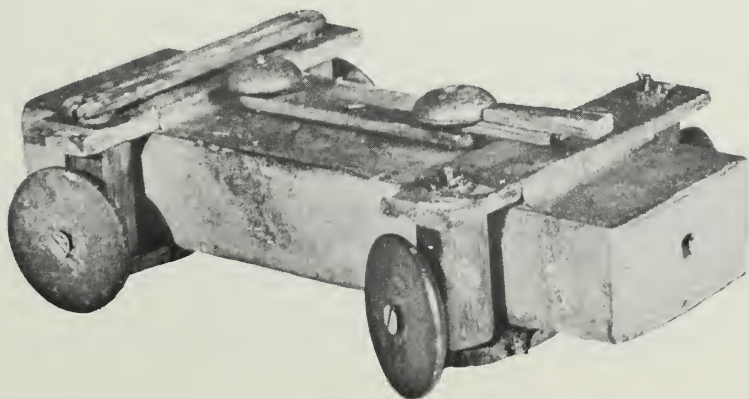


*The frontispiece of the Bible of Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln. (Reproduced from the original in the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, Ky.)*

life of Lincoln, his law practice, and his home in Springfield are arranged along the north wall.

**BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE OF LINCOLN.** Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin at the "Sinking Spring" farm, near Hodgenville, Ky., on February 12, 1809. When Abraham was 2 years old, his father, Thomas Lincoln, moved the family to a farm at Knob Creek, 10 miles north of the birthplace. In the autumn of 1815, Lincoln and his sister Sarah were sent for

*Model of a wagon made by Lincoln in 1840.*



short periods to the school of Zachariah Riney, located 2 miles from the Knob Creek home. One hundred years after the departure of the Lincoln family from the Hodgenville farm, the traditional birth cabin was enshrined in a marble memorial at the "Sinking Spring" farm.

The Lincoln family Bible, now at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, Ky., was for many years in the Lincoln Museum collection. This is the Bible used by Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, in reading to him and the other Lincoln children. Inside the cover the name of Abraham Lincoln appears in a youthful hand. In 1893, it was sold by the Johnstons, stepchildren of Thomas Lincoln, for exhibition at the Chicago World's Fair. Later it was acquired for the Oldroyd collection.

In 1816, the Lincoln family ferried the Ohio River and settled on a farm near Gentryville, Ind. Here young Lincoln worked on a farm for 25 cents a day. In 1827 he was hired to run a ferry across the Ohio River at the mouth of Anderson's Creek. In 1828, Lincoln helped to take a boatload of produce to New Orleans. On a second trip in 1831, Lincoln viewed the slave market there. His sentiments against the enslavement of human beings are said to have originated with this visit.

On the trip to New Orleans in 1831, the flatboat stuck on the mill dam at New Salem, Ill. The boat was unloaded, shoved over the dam, and the journey resumed. Reflecting upon this experience, and a later one in which a steamboat on which he had taken passage ran aground, he devised a scheme for lightening grounded vessels by inflating air chambers near the water line. A model embodying the idea was whittled out in his law office, and on May 22, 1849, a patent was granted for the device. A photograph of the model and a copy of Lincoln's application for the patent may be seen in the Museum.

The inventive capacity of Lincoln is also shown in the model of a wagon which he made in 1840. The front wheels of the wagon turn instead of the axle, employing the same principle as the modern automobile. No patent was ever issued for the model which was acquired by Oldroyd for his collection.

MIGRATION TO ILLINOIS, 1830. In 1830, when Lincoln was 21 years of age, his family migrated to Decatur, Ill. After assisting in the building of a new cabin, Lincoln left home for New Salem to make his own way in the world. Here he received employment clerking in a store, and later



*This is one of 3,000 rails split by Lincoln and John Hanks at Decatur, Ill., in 1831.*

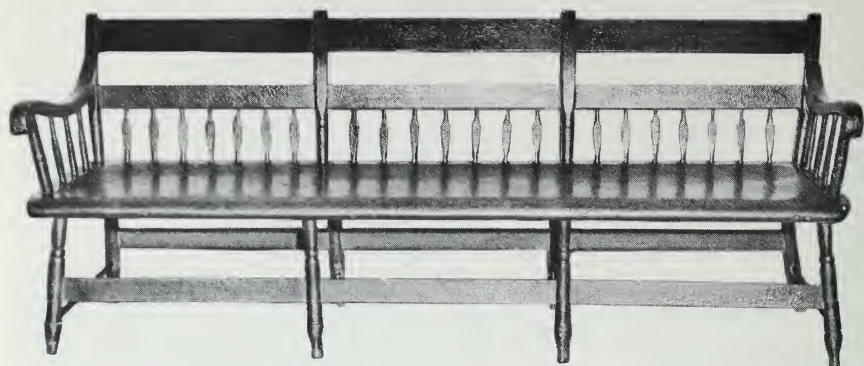


*The Springfield home of Abraham Lincoln. Inside the fence is Lincoln with two of his sons, Willie and Tad. (Reproduced from photograph made in 1860 by A. J. Whipple, Boston, Mass. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.)*

entered the service of his country during the Black Hawk War. He was elected captain of his company and served 3 months without seeing action. Returning from the war, Lincoln became a partner in the Lincoln-Berry store, a venture which proved unsuccessful and left him in debt. In May 1833, he was appointed postmaster at New Salem, and also served as Deputy Surveyor, for which he was paid \$3 per day. An original document executed by Lincoln as surveyor, and the staff which he used as a rest for his surveyor's instrument, are shown in one of the Museum cases.

A rail taken from the fence of Thomas Lincoln's farm near Decatur, Ill., one of some 3,000 split by Lincoln and his cousin John Hanks, is preserved in the Lincoln Museum. Decorated with streamers and bearing the inscription "Abraham Lincoln, the Rail Candidate for President in 1860 . . ." it was carried by John Hanks to the Illinois Republican Convention in May 1860. This incident provided an effective slogan for the campaign of 1860.

**LIFE IN SPRINGFIELD.** Lincoln soon began the study of law, and was granted a license in 1836. Removing to Springfield in 1837, he began active practice. Items in the Museum illustrating this period of Lincoln's life include a legal document written by Lincoln in 1841 when a member of the firm of Lincoln and Logan, and a paper, dated October 25, 1841, drawn up by Lincoln for the purchase of land from his father. Also in the collection is a chair used by Lincoln in his law office at Springfield presented to Oldroyd by William H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner from 1844 to 1861. Several law books and other volumes once owned by Lincoln may be seen in an adjoining table case.



*Settee from the Lincoln home.*



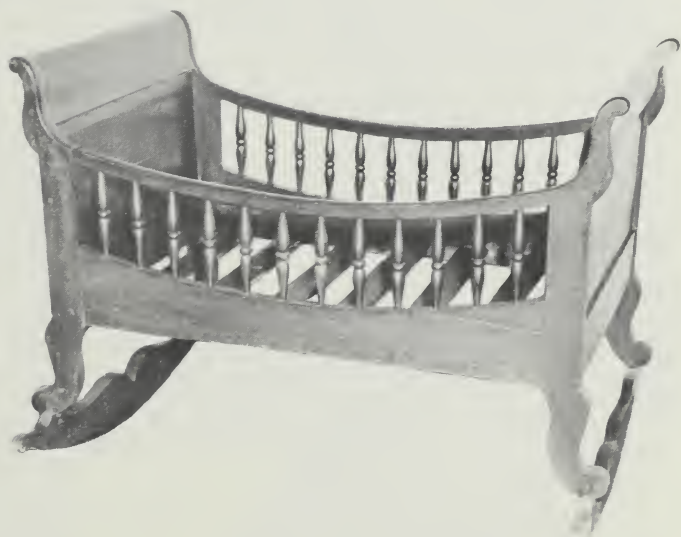
*Chair from Lincoln's law office.*

On November 4, 1842, Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married and began housekeeping in Springfield. In 1844, he bought the house at Eighth and Jackson Streets in Springfield where he lived until he became President. Early in 1861, before leaving for Washington, the President-elect and Mrs. Lincoln sold some of their furniture to neighbors. Several of these articles were acquired by Oldroyd when his collection was in the Lincoln home in Springfield and are now exhibited in the Lincoln Museum.

Among these furnishings are the cradle used by the four Lincoln children, a dining room chair, and a rush bottom chair. A desk used



*Desk from the Springfield home.*



*Cradle used by Lincoln's children.*

by Lincoln at his home in Springfield is also exhibited. It has a sloping, hinged top and eight pigeon holes at the back. A black walnut whatnot with three shelves was made from an old bedstead by a carpenter in Springfield. Richly carved, the lower part could be used as a desk or table. It stood in the Lincoln parlor for many years. There is also an oak stand from the Lincoln home.

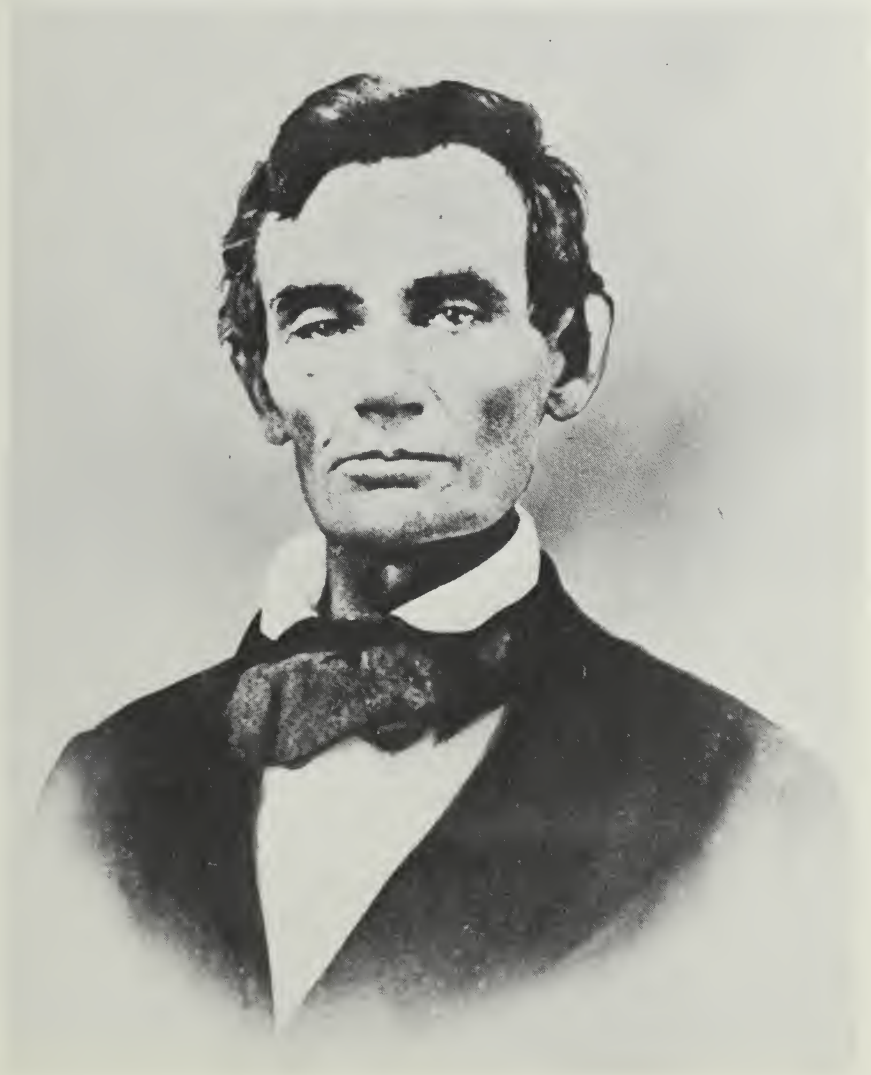


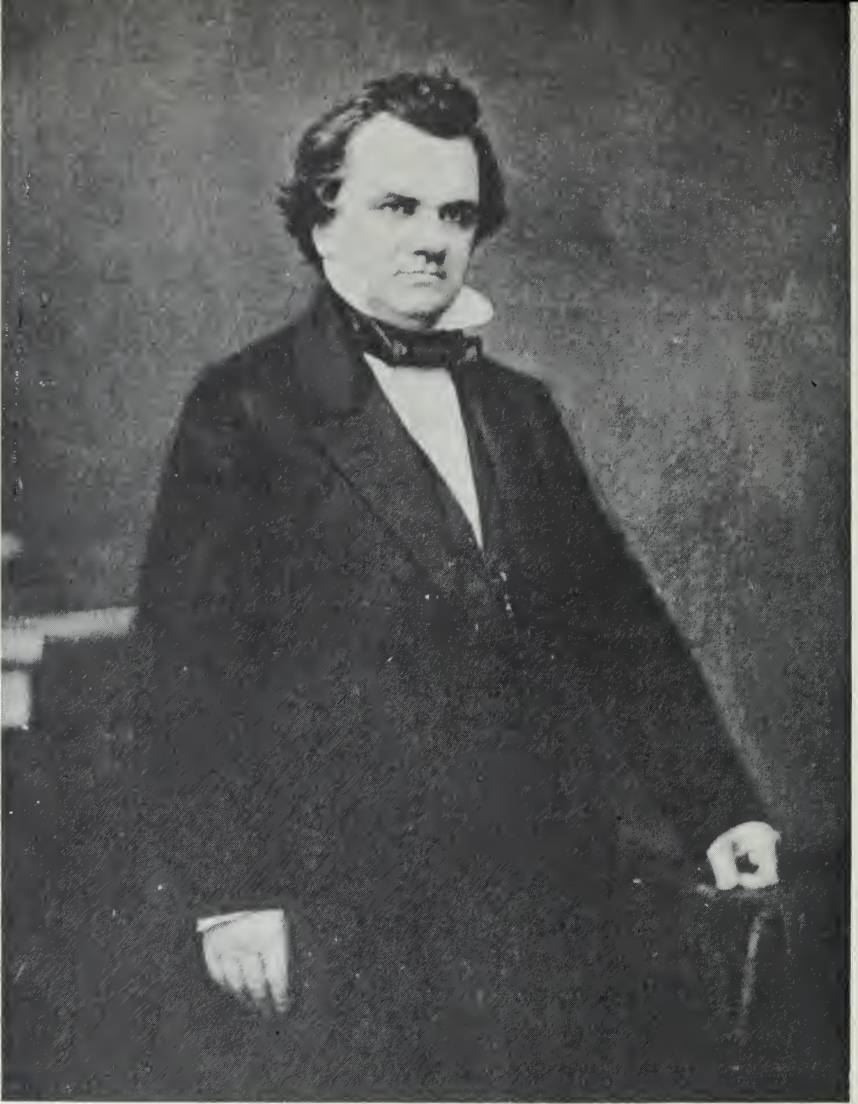
*"Riding the Circuit."* (Reproduced from sketch which appeared in Collier's, February 13, 1909. Courtesy of Collier's and the artist, Rollin Kirby.)

A long wooden bench, or settee, made on order of Lincoln to accommodate his great height, is another object from the Lincoln home. Returning from his law office, the tired attorney would stretch his tall form on this bench placed on the south porch of his home. Also on exhibit is the large rear wheel of the Lincoln surry which was in use until the departure of the family from Springfield.

LINCOLN, THE LAWYER. Entering politics, Lincoln was first elected to the Illinois Legislature in 1834, and served four terms. The Museum has a photostat of a bill entitled "An Act to limit the Jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace," introduced by Lincoln in December 1834. In the election of 1840, Lincoln actively participated in national politics for the first time, campaigning vigorously for the Whig nominee, William Henry Harrison. As Presidential elector of the Whig Party in 1844, Lincoln canvassed Illinois and Indiana for Henry Clay, whom he greatly admired. Again, in 1848, he campaigned for the Whig candidate, Zachary Taylor.

*Photograph from an ambrotype by T. P. Pearson, Macomb, Ill., taken the day before Lincoln's debate with Douglas at Freeport, Ill.*





*Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. This photograph was taken during his debates with Lincoln in 1858. (Reproduced from photograph by Mathew B. Brady, New York City. Courtesy of the National Archives, Washington, D. C.)*

Lincoln, now prominent in Whig politics, was elected to Congress in 1846 and served for a single term. Lincoln's proposed bill of January 10, 1849, for the gradual emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia, may be seen in a copy of the *Congressional Globe* in a table case. The bill was tabled and never acted upon. When his term was completed, Lincoln returned to his law practice in Springfield. From 1849 to 1854, he traveled with the court in the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois. He rode the circuit in the spring and fall, which allowed him only 6 months for practice in Springfield.



*"Wide Awake" torch carried in the Campaign of 1860.*

THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, which reopened the issue of admitting slavery into the territories, aroused Lincoln to a new interest in politics. On October 16, 1854, at Peoria, Ill., Lincoln delivered the first of his great speeches on slavery. In reply to a speech by Stephen A. Douglas, the sponsor of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lincoln reviewed the history of slavery and argued against its extension.

*Grand Procession of Wide Awakes at New York on the evening of October 3, 1860. (Reproduced from sketch in Harper's Weekly, October 13, 1860.)*





*Scene at the east front of the Capitol with the crowd assembling for the First Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. The new dome was then only partially completed. (Reproduced from photograph by Mathew B. Brady, Washington, D. C.)*

In accepting the Republican nomination for United States Senator in 1858, Lincoln renewed his offensive against slavery in his famous "House Divided Speech." Douglas accepted Lincoln's challenge to argue the great issue of the day in a series of seven debates. As a result of these debates, Lincoln emerged from a somewhat obscure politician to a figure of national importance, even though he lost the subsequent senatorial election in the State Legislature to Douglas. His prestige was further enhanced by a masterful address on the slavery question which he delivered before a capacity audience of important citizens at the Cooper Union in New York on February 27, 1860. This speech was one of the greatest of Lincoln's career and so impressed the North that party leaders now considered him as a possible Presidential candidate.

LINCOLN ELECTED PRESIDENT. The Republican National Convention was held at the "Wigwam" in Chicago, in May 1860. On the first ballot William H. Seward was leading, but the third ballot resulted in a landslide for Lincoln. The candidate declined to take the stump and took no active part in the campaign beyond keeping in touch with his political leaders. Torchlight processions organized by Republican "Wide Awake" clubs in cities throughout the North provided the most picturesque feature of the spirited campaign of 1860. A "Wide Awake" torch carried by a resident of Springfield, Ill., in a demonstration in that city on August 8, 1860, and in all political campaigns until 1884, is among the exhibits of the Lincoln Museum. The torch was presented to the Oldroyd collection after the defeat of the Republican Party in 1884. Also of interest is a collection of rare Currier and Ives lithographs and cartoons on the election of 1860.

The Democratic Party, hopelessly split on the slavery controversy, divided into Northern and Southern factions in 1860. Douglas was the candidate of the Northern Democrats while John C. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, was selected by the Southern Democrats. John Bell, of Tennessee, was chosen by the new Constitutional Union Party. The split in the Democratic Party led to the election of Lincoln in November.

FIRST INAUGURATION, MARCH 4, 1861. On the morning of February 11, a large crowd gathered at the Great Western Railway Station in Springfield to see Lincoln depart for Washington. Despite a drizzling rain, his neighbors listened attentively to Lincoln's eloquent farewell words. Along the way, he spoke briefly at large cities and made a few remarks at smaller places. Upon receiving a report that an attempt might be made on Lincoln's life in Baltimore, those responsible for his safety hurriedly transported him on to Washington without stopping in Baltimore. Arriving at the Capital at 6 a. m. on February 23, the President-elect went to the Willard Hotel where he remained until after the inauguration.

Shortly before noon on March 4, 1861, the President-elect was driven in President Buchanan's open carriage down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol. The inaugural ceremonies were held on the east portico before a crowd of 30,000. Lincoln read his carefully prepared address slowly and with deep feeling. Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, 84 years old, then administered the oath of office.

THE WAR 1861-65. As the leader of the North in the Civil War, Lincoln was beset from the beginning by the clamors of an impatient Congress, press, and people for a quick conclusion of hostilities. In their repeated cry "On to Richmond," during the spring of 1861, the people of the North did not consider or understand the long preparation, the seemingly endless training of raw recruits, the hard fighting, the bitter disappointments that must be endured before victory could rest with the



*Fort Stevens, D. C., August 1865.* (Reproduced from photograph by Mathew B. Brady, Washington, D. C.)

North. Though the public gradually came to realize that the war was not an easy game to be quickly ended, political pressure for action unjustified on military grounds was always a problem confronting Lincoln. Military men regarded with irritation these popular demands for precipitate action, and Lincoln himself at first partly shared the popular point of view. He realized, moreover, as generals often did not, that there were occasions on which political expediency might be as important as military considerations. He therefore emphasized the defense of Washington, sometimes to the detriment of strategic plans, as during McClellan's Peninsular Campaign. Yet, like the public, Lincoln was eager for quick results and sanctioned the premature movement into Virginia in the summer of 1861 that was to culminate in a panicky rout after the First Battle of Manassas.

Unable always to accept the designs of his generals and harassed by the inability of some technically competent officers like McClellan to adopt a sufficiently energetic plan of campaign, Lincoln at times interfered with strategy. Since he was not trained in military matters, his interference was occasionally unfortunate in its results. He was also sometimes influenced excessively by the easy victories of mediocre generals over inferior opposition and placed such officers in posts to which their capacities proved unequal. At the end, however, Lincoln had the wisdom to recognize his own deficiencies in military matters and the prime necessity for the guidance of military affairs by military men. Throughout the summer and fall of 1864 he therefore supported Grant in the face of widespread denunciation of that general.

In spite of his limitations in military affairs, Lincoln was an outstanding war President. Defeat in the field, however bitter, never shook his

determination to win the war or his confidence in ultimate victory. Although the great loss of life bore heavily upon him, he never shared the hysterical willingness of Horace Greeley to stop "these rivers of human blood" when Grant's Virginia campaign seemed stalled with heavy casualties in the summer of 1864. He had set for himself an undeviating road to victory and that goal he pursued to Appomattox in spite of discouragements that would have given pause to a man of lesser stature.

On July 11–12, 1864, the city of Washington was threatened by Confederate forces under Jubal A. Early. The defenses of the Capital were stripped of experienced soldiers, as all available aid had been sent to General Grant in a determined effort to capture Richmond. Early's attack was directed against Fort Stevens, north of the city. Only the arrival of veteran reinforcements from the Richmond front saved Washington from capture. The engagement, on July 12, was witnessed by President Lincoln, who stood exposed on the parapet until a surgeon at his side was wounded by a Minié ball. Only when ordered to do so by Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright did the President take a position behind the parapet.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION. On the issue of emancipation, Lincoln's policy, in contrast to that of the radicals, was moderate, aiming

*"First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet." Photograph of the engraving by A. H. Ritchie from the original painting by F. B. Carpenter, now in the old Supreme Court chamber of the U. S. Capitol, Washington, D. C. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress.)*





*Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Memorial, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa.*

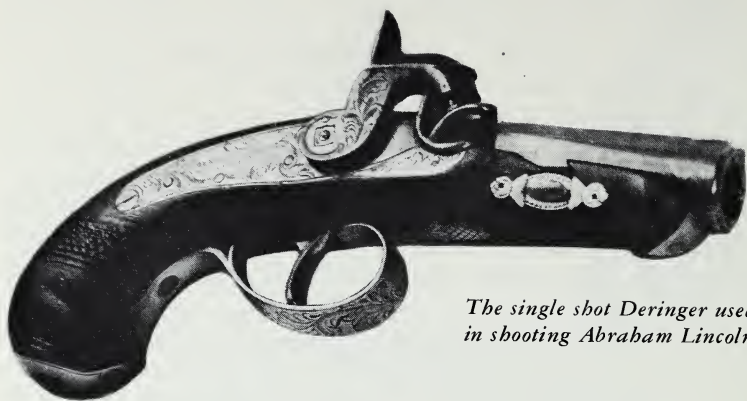
at gradual freeing of the slaves by voluntary action on the part of the States with Federal compensation to slaveholders. He knew that emancipation without compensation would mean ruin to the economy of the South. He recognized, moreover, that the North shared the responsibility for the existence of slavery and that it was therefore only just that it should participate in the cost of compensation. Hoping against hope that the South would rejoin the Union voluntarily, Lincoln stressed the restoration of the Union as his major war aim, and at first left the question of slavery in abeyance. The desirability of preventing the secession of border States likewise made a policy of emancipation inopportune at the beginning of the war. By the middle of 1862, however, it had become obvious that the enthusiasm of many Northerners for the war was being dampened by the failure to enunciate a definite policy in the controversial matter. Abroad, too, the cause of the Union was suffering for the same reason. A draft emancipation proclamation was read by Lincoln to the Cabinet on July 22, but it was decided to defer announcement until a major victory had been won by the Union forces. Accordingly, after the Confederate reverse at Antietam, Lincoln issued the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, announcing that all slaves in States still in the Rebellion on January 1 would be declared free. The way was thus still left open for any Confederate State to return to the Union with the institution of slavery unimpaired if they desired to do so. No State availed itself of this opportunity, and on January 1, 1863, the historic Emancipation Proclamation was issued. With its promulgation congressional and popular interest in compensated emancipation, never strong, almost disappeared. Thus the policy governing the freedom of slaves as actually carried out did not embody Lincoln's ideal of voluntary and compensated emancipation.

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. At Gettysburg, on July 1-3, 1863, in one of the greatest battles ever fought on American soil, the invading Confederate Army under General Lee was defeated by the Army of the Potomac under Gen. George G. Meade and forced to return southward. The name of Gettysburg is remembered not only because of the great battle fought there, but also because of the famous address which Abraham Lincoln delivered there. On November 2, 1863, Lincoln received an invitation to make a few appropriate remarks at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery. The first draft was carefully prepared by Lincoln in Washington several days before the occasion. It was not written on a scrap of paper or on the back of an envelope on the journey to Gettysburg as has sometimes been said. Certain revisions in the wording, however, were made by Lincoln on the evening of November 18, soon after his arrival at the home of Judge David Wills in Gettysburg.

The dedication of the Cemetery was preceded by an elaborate parade which moved at 11 a. m., November 19, from the public square, on which the Wills home was located. At least 15,000 people were on Cemetery Hill for the exercises. Lincoln's address followed a 2-hour oration by Edward Everett, the principal speaker of the day. The President rose slowly and in a clear, high-pitched voice delivered his immortal words, glancing only occasionally at the pages in his hand. There was little applause at the finish, and Lincoln felt his speech had been a failure.

*Lincoln delivering his Second Inaugural Address.* (Reproduced from photograph by Alexander Gardner, Washington, D. C.)





*The single shot Deringer used by Booth in shooting Abraham Lincoln.*

The famous address contains only 272 words and was spoken in less than 3 minutes. Few of those present sensed its greatness, but Lincoln's Gettysburg Address has been accepted as a masterpiece of English eloquence.

ELECTION OF 1864 AND THE SECOND INAUGURATION. In an appeal to win the votes of all parties, the Republicans used the name Union Party in the election of 1864. The Democrats ran George B. McClellan on a peace platform. The election resulted in an overwhelming electoral vote for Lincoln. His Second Inaugural Address was delivered from the east front of the Capitol on March 4, 1865, with Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase administering the oath of office. The Second Inaugural Address, containing only 600 words, stands with the Gettysburg Address as one of the great examples of forceful and stimulating use of the English language.

On March 23, Lincoln boarded the steamer *River Queen* for a visit to City Point, Va., where General Grant had his headquarters. Petersburg fell on April 2, and Richmond was evacuated by Lee's forces and occupied by Federal forces on the following day. Lincoln visited the abandoned Confederate capital on April 4, being almost unattended as he walked through the streets. The President returned to Washington on April 9, the day General Lee surrendered his army to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, Va. Five days later he was assassinated.

### *Exhibits Relating to the Assassination*

The exhibits on the assassination and the flight of Booth and the conspirators are of special interest. These are contained in two large wall cases located in the old stage area of the theatre close to the spot where the assassination occurred. Several of the articles seen here were among the exhibits used as evidence in the trial of the conspirators

in 1865, and were secured on an indefinite loan from the Judge Advocate General's Office of the War Department in 1940.

The approximate location of the Lincoln box and the identical boxes on the opposite side of the stage, the front of the stage, and footprints marking the route of the assassin in his dash across the stage to the rear door have been outlined on the floor. Booth's left boot, preserved in the Museum collection, was used as a pattern for the footprints. The present floor is at the approximate level of the old stage. The double box occupied by the Lincoln party was actually located almost as high as the ceiling of the present first floor.

Properly placed within the outline of the Lincoln box is the original door to Box 7 with the small hole used by the assassin to peer into the box before entering. It was presented to the Lincoln Museum in 1940 by T. Latimer Ford, grandson of the Civil War owner of the theatre. The pine bar used by Booth to secure the vestibule door so that no one could follow him is seen in the adjoining case.

The case devoted to the story of the assassination contains the single-shot Deringer used by Booth in shooting President Lincoln, the dagger with which he stabbed Major Rathbone, the keys to the boxes, and an opera-glass case dropped by Mrs. Lincoln in the box after the assassination. On loan from the Washington Gas Light Co., is the meter for the gas lights at Ford's Theatre.

In the alcove nearby are three original furnishings from the Presidential box. The U.S. Treasury Guards' flag, with the rent made by Booth's spur clearly visible, is exhibited on the rear wall. It was donated in 1932 by the daughter of Maj. Emory S. Turner, who had retained it after the regiment disbanded. Also displayed are the sofa and

*Diorama showing the interior of Ford's Theatre on the night of April 14, 1865.*



engraving of George Washington from the Lincoln box. These were presented in 1959 by Addison H. Reese, a great-grandson of John T. Ford. In the alcove on the opposite side of the room, one of the American flags which decorated the box is exhibited.

### *Exhibits Concerning the Flight of Booth*

The Museum is fortunate in having many objects used by Booth in his flight. One of the most interesting of these is the actor's diary containing his melodramatic account of the murder and his flight. Among the other items are Booth's boot showing the 10-inch slit made by Dr. Mudd in removing it from the assassin's leg, and Booth's compass, with the wax drippings from the candle used to read the instrument while crossing the Potomac. There are also two Colt revolvers, a Spencer carbine, a folding pocket knife, and keys, all taken from Booth's person after he was shot in Garrett's barn.

*The Petersen House.*



## *Exhibits Relating to the Other Conspirators, Their Trial and Execution*

Perhaps the most interesting object in the Museum collection related to the other conspirators is the Whitney Navy revolver carried by Paine in his attempt to assassinate Seward. The break which rendered the gun useless and forced Paine to attempt to stab Seward is plainly visible. There are also three knives belonging to the conspirators; Paine's pick and a coil of rope, used at the trial to implicate Spangler; and the keys to the cells at the Arsenal Penitentiary and at Fort Jefferson, Fla., where the conspirators were confined.

## *Miniature of Ford's Theatre*

One of the outstanding attractions in the Lincoln Museum is the diorama depicting the scene of the assassination. It has been placed at the center of the stage as outlined on the floor. Since only the walls of the original building remain, the diorama will enable you to visualize the appearance of Ford's Theatre at that time. The model was constructed in proper perspective from information secured from contemporary sketches, photographs, and historical research.

## *Special Collections*

In the central aisle of the Museum are table cases devoted to special collections of objects pertaining to Lincoln. In one of the table cases there are several pieces of Haviland chinaware of the State Dining Room set used at the White House during Lincoln's administration. Each piece has a wide border of Solferino purple, outlined in gold, beaded edges, and the United States Coat-of-Arms on the side or at the center.

A table case is also devoted to a collection of Lincoln medals, coins, and Civil War paper money. Many of these items are rare and were acquired by Osborn H. Oldroyd over a long period. A Lincoln stamp collection, presented in 1948 by the Philatelic Group of the New World Club, New York, occupies one end of the case.

Another table case contains the boots worn by Lincoln on the night of the assassination. William T. Clark, who then occupied the room in which Lincoln died, retained the boots and later gave them to Justin H. Hatch, of Lynn, Mass. His daughter, Miss Ruth Hatch, presented them to the Lincoln Museum in May 1947. Plaster casts of the hands and life mask of Lincoln, the originals of which were made by Leonard Volk, of Chicago, in 1860, are also placed in this case. A copy of Volk's head of Lincoln, in plaster, which followed the life mask, is placed beside the mask.



*Front parlor of the Petersen House.*

### *The Petersen House*

The house in which Lincoln died, at 453 (now numbered 516) Tenth Street NW., had been built by William Petersen, a Swedish tailor, in 1849. It is a three-story building, with the basement only slightly below the street level. Since the house had more rooms than the family required, he rented his extra rooms to lodgers. The bedroom to which Lincoln was taken was occupied by William T. Clark, a clerk at the Quartermaster General's Office, formerly a soldier of Co. D, 13th Mass. Infantry.

The walls of the bedroom at the time were covered with a brownish paper, figured with a white design. Some engravings and a photograph hung upon the walls. The engravings were copies of J. H. Herring's "Village Blacksmith," "The Stable," and "Barnyard." The photograph was one taken from an engraved copy of Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair." The furniture consisted of a bureau covered with crochet, a table, several chairs, and a low walnut bedstead. A worn Brussels carpet covered the floor.

The Petersen House remained in the hands of the Petersen family until November 25, 1878, when the heirs of William and Anna Petersen sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schade for the sum of \$4,500. Mr. Schade purchased the Petersen House for a home and for



*Back parlor of the Petersen House.*

an office for his newspaper. The *Washington Sentinel*, of which he was editor, was published in the front room of the basement for many years. The room in which Lincoln died was used as a playroom by the Schade children. Schade added a room adjoining the back stairway, and one beneath it in the basement.

Although the building was unmarked on the outside, the Schade family was constantly besieged by tourists for permission to view the death room. From 1880, efforts were made in Congress to memorialize the home. In 1883, a marble tablet was placed on the outside of the house, telling of its tragic history. This marker was replaced in 1924 with a bronze plaque. The United States Government purchased the historic building in 1896 from the Schade family.

The House Where Lincoln Died, both on the exterior and the interior, has remained substantially unchanged in appearance since the time of Lincoln's death. Entering the building, you walk up the steps used in carrying the dying President into the house, and proceed through the hallway to the front and back parlors and to the room in which Lincoln died. This house was refurnished in 1932, after the Lincoln collection was moved to the old Ford's Theatre building, by five women's patriotic organizations following as nearly as possible a diagram made shortly after the death of Lincoln. Labels in each room tell the history of the building and the events which took place there on the night of



*The room in which Lincoln died.*

April 14 and the morning of April 15, 1865. The appearance of the building was greatly improved in 1959 by the extensive repairs and rehabilitation made under the Mission 66 program.

THE FRONT PARLOR. The horsehair sofa and the high-back rocking chair in this room were once in the Lincoln home in Springfield. The sofa is in the same location as the one occupied by Mrs. Lincoln on the night of April 14 and the morning of April 15, 1865. The corner whatnots and center table are similar in appearance and in the same position as those in the room on the night of the assassination. On the mantel are two candlesticks which were presented by Lincoln to Caleb Smith, his Secretary of the Interior. The mantels and fireplaces in both the front and rear parlors are the originals.

THE BACK PARLOR. The sofa in this room is also from the home of Lincoln in Springfield. A bed was placed in this location at the time of the assassination. The center table is similar to the one used by Corp. James Tanner in taking shorthand notes from witnesses of the tragedy as interviewed by Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton. Two ornate vases, gifts of Lincoln to Caleb Smith, are on the mantelpiece.

THE ROOM IN WHICH LINCOLN DIED. The furnishings in the room are similar in appearance to those there at the time of the tragedy. An exact copy of the "Village Blacksmith" replaces the one that then hung on the wall, and above the bed is a copy of Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair." The wallpaper is a reproduction of the original pattern. The bed and chairs closely resemble those originally in the room at the time of Lincoln's death.

### *How To Reach the Memorials*

Ford's Theatre (Lincoln Museum) is located at 511 Tenth Street NW., between E and F Streets, and the House Where Lincoln Died is just across the street at 516 Tenth Street. No parking facilities are available. Streetcars and buses, however, stop only a short distance from the area.

### *Administration*

The Lincoln Museum and the House Where Lincoln Died are National Memorials administered by National Capital Parks, a unit of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. All inquiries should be addressed to the Superintendent, National Capital Parks, Interior Building, Washington 25, D. C.

### *Related Areas*

In addition to the Lincoln Museum and the House Where Lincoln Died, the National Capital Parks also administers the Lincoln Memorial. Other areas of the National Park System relating to Lincoln are the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, Ky., and the Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa.

### *Visitor Facilities*

The Lincoln Museum is open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m., and the House Where Lincoln Died from 9 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. on weekdays. Both buildings open at 12:30 p. m. and close at the usual time on Sundays and holidays, except on Christmas when both memorials are closed. There is a small admission fee, which is waived for children and educational groups.

Illustrated talks on the assassination of Lincoln and the history of Ford's Theatre are scheduled regularly at the Lincoln Museum, and special guide and lecture services are available to groups and organizations by appointment.

## *Suggested Readings*

Basler, Roy P., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Ill. 9 vols. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N.J., 1955.

Bryan, George S., *The Great American Myth*. Carrick & Evans, New York, 1940.

Nicolay, John G. and John Hay, *Abraham Lincoln; A History*. 10 vols. The Century Company, New York, 1890.

Oldroyd, Osborn H., *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln; Flight, Pursuit, Capture, and Punishment of the Conspirators*. O. H. Oldroyd, Washington, 1901.

Sandburg, Carl, *Abraham Lincoln, The Prairie Years*. 2 vols. Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1926.

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—, *Abraham Lincoln, The Prairie Years and The War Years*. Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1954.

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Tarbell, Ida M., *The Life of Abraham Lincoln*. New edition, 2 vols. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1928.

Thomas, Benjamin P., *Abraham Lincoln, A Biography*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1952.





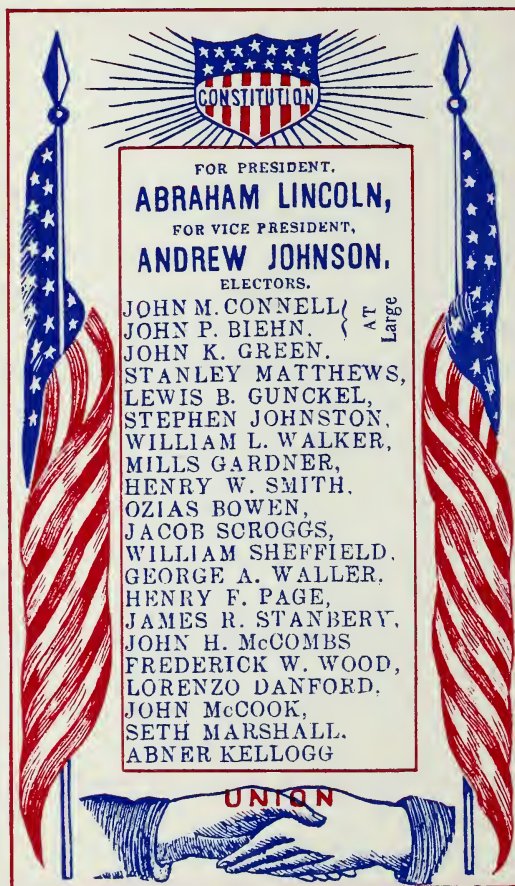
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The Lincoln Museum and the House Where Lincoln Died  
(No. 3), 20 cents  
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Morristown, A Military Capital of the Revolution  
(No. 7), 25 cents  
Ocmulgee (No. 24), 25 cents  
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